

**WHITMAN COUNTY  
GRANT No. G1400494**

**NO NET LOSS REPORT**

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**FOR THE WHITMAN COUNTY SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM**

Prepared for:



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# NO NET LOSS REPORT

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## WHITMAN COUNTY SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM

### 1 INTRODUCTION

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The Shoreline Management Act guidelines (Guidelines) require local shoreline master programs (SMPs) to regulate new development to “achieve no net loss of ecological function.” This No Net Loss (NNL) Report provides a summary of how the development of the SMP and supporting documents, including the Shoreline Analysis Report, Shoreline Restoration Plan, and Cumulative Impacts Analysis (CIA), will ensure that ecological functions will not be degraded or minimized over time as the SMP is implemented. The CIA evaluated the effects of foreseeable development under the proposed SMP and demonstrated that the goals, policies and regulations in the proposed SMP will prevent degradation of ecological functions relative to the existing conditions, as documented in the County’s Shoreline Analysis Report.

### 2 SHORELINE JURISDICTION

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As defined by the Shoreline Management Act of 1971, shorelines include certain waters of the state plus their associated “shorelands.” At a minimum, the waterbodies designated as shorelines of the state are streams whose mean annual flow is 20 cubic feet per second (cfs) or greater, lakes whose area is greater than 20 acres, and all marine waters. Shorelands are defined as: “those lands extending landward for 200 feet in all directions as measured on a horizontal plane from the ordinary high water mark; floodways and contiguous floodplain areas landward 200 feet from such floodways; and all wetlands and river deltas associated with the streams, lakes, and tidal waters which are subject to the provisions of this chapter... Any county or city may determine that portion of a one-hundred-year floodplain to be included in its master program as long as such portion includes, as a minimum, the floodway and the adjacent land extending landward two hundred feet therefrom. Any city or county may also include in its master program land necessary for buffers for critical areas...” (RCW 90.58.030).

In Whitman County, shoreline jurisdiction includes the waterbodies indicated in Table 1, below.

The areas meeting the shoreline jurisdiction criteria include approximately 621 miles of river and lake shoreline and 27 square miles of upland shorelands, which includes floodways, associated floodplains, and wetlands. The mainstem and North Fork Palouse River, Snake River, Rock Creek, Portions of Pine and Union Flat Creeks, and Rock Lake also qualify for the special status of Shorelines of Statewide Significance (mean annual flow of 200 cfs or greater for rivers or larger than 1,000 acres for lakes).

Table 1. List of Shorelines of the State

<b>Rivers and Streams</b>	<b>Lakes</b>
Cottonwood Creek	Alkali Lake
Fourmile Creek	Bonnie Lake
Latah Creek (Hangman Creek)	Crooked Knee Lake
Palouse River – Mainstem *	Duck Lake
Palouse River – North Fork *	Folsom Lake
Palouse River – South Fork	Lavista Lake
Pine Creek *	Rock Lake *
Rock Creek *	Sheep Lake
Snake River *	Snyder Slough
Union Flat Creek *	Stevens Lake
	Texas Lake
	Tule Lake

\* All or portions of these waterbodies also meet criteria for Shorelines of Statewide Significance.

### 3 SHORELINE ENVIRONMENT DESIGNATIONS

The County's Shoreline Analysis Report (The Watershed Company and BERK 2014) evaluated existing conditions in the County's shorelines. Shorelines were divided into discrete reaches, and environment designations were proposed for each reach based on site-specific conditions and likely changes in land use.

The assignment of shoreline environment designations is an important step in achieving no net loss of ecological function. Appropriate assignment of such designations can help minimize impacts by concentrating development activity in lower functioning areas that are not likely to experience significant function degradation with incremental increases in new development or redevelopment.

The County's current Shoreline Master Program utilizes a system of four environment designations: Rural, Conservancy, Natural and Urban. The SMP Guidelines recommend

use of six unique environments: Aquatic, Natural, Urban Conservancy, Rural Conservancy, Shoreline Residential, and High Intensity. Urban Conservancy, Shoreline Residential, and High Intensity are each intended by the Guidelines to be applied only in Cities, UGAs, and intensely developed rural areas. The findings of the Analysis Report support the development of several alternative designations to supplement the Guidelines system.

The Draft Whitman County SMP generally follows Ecology's recommended environment designations though several which are not applicable to Whitman County shorelines are omitted (Natural, Urban Conservancy, Shoreline Residential, High Intensity), and two unique new designations (Rural Industrial/Port and Shoreline Parks) are added. Most of the area proposed for shoreline jurisdiction under the proposed SMP is currently designated as Rural under the existing SMP. This designation is generally equivalent to Rural Conservancy under the proposed SMP. Shoreline in the existing Conservancy designation is generally assigned Rural Conservancy in the proposed SMP. The Rural Industrial/Ports and Shoreline Parks designations are new designations proposed for the intensely developed Port areas along the Snake, and the existing or proposed parks and open space areas in the County, respectively. The following discussion provides a brief description of each of the environment designations established in the County's proposed SMP.

### **3.1 Aquatic**

The purpose of the Aquatic environment designation is to protect, restore, and manage the unique characteristics and resources of the areas waterward of the ordinary high-water mark. Management policies focus on water-dependent uses and ecological restoration, and aim to minimize impacts to the fish and wildlife habitat, views, water quality, natural hydrologic conditions, and surface navigation.

### **3.2 Rural Conservancy**

The purpose of the Rural Conservancy environment designation is to promote agricultural use and activities, including associated irrigation and support facilities; accommodate low-density rural home sites; function as a separation between urban areas; maintain an open space character and provide opportunities for recreational uses compatible with agricultural activities.

Management policies promote agricultural activities on agricultural lands. Non-agricultural uses should be limited to those compatible with agriculture. Activities should be designed for compatibility with the rural character of the area and should be

limited to those which would not substantially degrade or permanently deplete the biological resources of the area.

### **3.3 Shoreline Parks**

The purpose of the Shoreline Parks environment designation is to ensure appropriate management and development of existing and future public parks and recreation areas. It is intended to protect ecological functions of open space, floodplain and other sensitive public or protected lands and conserve existing natural resources and valuable historic and cultural areas while allowing a variety of compatible uses. The Management policies focus on limiting uses to those which sustain the shoreline area's physical and biological resources and uses of a non-permanent nature that do not substantially degrade ecological functions or the rural or natural character of the shoreline area. Water-dependent and water-enjoyment recreation facilities and uses that do not deplete the resource over time, such as boating facilities, fishing, hunting, wildlife viewing trails, swimming beaches, and scientific, historical, cultural, and educational research uses, are preferred, provided adverse impacts to the shoreline are mitigated. Commercial and industrial uses are generally not allowed. Public access and public recreation objectives on public lands should be implemented when appropriate.

### **3.4 Rural Industrial/Port**

The purpose of the Rural Industrial/Port environment designation is to provide for intensive water-oriented commercial, transportation, power production, and industrial uses, while protecting existing ecological functions. This designation will provide the opportunity for the development, redevelopment and infill of existing rural industrial and commercial developments or former industrial or commercial sites consistent with the rural character of the County. Management policies give priority to water-dependent uses. Second priority should be given to water-related and water-enjoyment uses. Nonwater-oriented uses should be allowed in limited situations where they do not conflict with or limit opportunities for water-oriented uses or on sites where there is no direct access to the shoreline. Where applicable, new development shall include environmental cleanup and restoration of the shoreline. Public access should be required on public lands. Private development that creates a demand for shoreline access should provide visual or physical access when feasible. Full utilization of existing industrial areas and altered lands should be achieved before further expansion of intensive development is allowed.

## 4 GOALS, POLICIES, AND REGULATIONS

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The proposed SMP includes several goals intended to conserve the ecological function of all jurisdictional shoreline areas. Additionally, the proposed SMP recognizes that the mainstem and North Fork Palouse River, Snake River, Rock Creek, Portions of Pine and Union Flat Creeks, and Rock Lake are Shorelines of Statewide Significance and must be given additional consideration as a major resource from which all people derive benefit (19.63.502). General goals for the Shorelines of Statewide Significance include:

- Preserve the natural character of the shoreline.
- Result in long-term over short-term benefit.
- Protect the resources and ecology of the shoreline.

The proposed SMP Chapter 19.63.400 includes specific goals for all shorelines specific to each of the individual elements outlined in the Shoreline Management Act (SMA) and SMP Guidelines. Select goals relevant to no net loss of ecological function include:

**Shoreline Use Goal 3 (19.63.402.A.3)** - Assure a distribution and pattern of land use along the shoreline that balances protection of the existing character of the County as well as the shoreline environments, habitat, and ecological systems.

**Economic Development Goal 1 (19.63.402.B.1)** - Promote local economic opportunities and encourage development along shorelines that is compatible with existing environmental conditions and the desired land use character of Whitman County's shorelines. Shoreline economic growth and prosperity should take into account the existing rural character of the County.

**Conservation Goal 1 (19.63.402.E.1)** - Encourage sound management of renewable shoreline resources and protection of non-renewable shoreline resources.

**Conservation Goal 2 (19.63.402.E.2)** - Achieve sustainability of resource functions and values and no-net-loss of ecological functions by allowing shoreline development and modifications when impacts are minimized through mitigation sequencing and by encouraging and incentivizing restoration of ecological functions where they have been impaired.

**Restoration Goal 1 (19.63.402.G.1)** - Upgrade shoreline ecological functions and aesthetics to a level commensurate with their importance to the community and to achievement of regional goals for water quality and habitat recovery, such as through the projects, programs and plans established within the SMP Shoreline Restoration Plan.

The Shoreline Analysis Report evaluated existing conditions, with particular attention to ecological conditions. The overarching purpose of recording baseline is to ensure the adopted regulations, designed to meet the goals above and others contained within the SMP, provide no net loss of shoreline ecological functions. The Shoreline Analysis Report includes recommendations for translating findings into shoreline designations, SMP policies, and restoration strategies. Key recommendations related to no-net-loss goals are presented below with a brief description of how those recommendations are addressed in the SMP's policies and regulations.

## 4.1 Critical Areas

<b><i>Analysis Report Recommendations</i></b>	<b><i>SMP Provisions</i></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review the County's critical areas regulations and modify where needed to meet SMA requirements and the most current scientific standards as mandated by WAC 173-26-201(2)(a).</li> <li>Customize the County's existing stream buffers to be environment designation specific, recognize existing shoreline conditions and to accommodate water-oriented and other preferred uses consistent with no net loss of ecological functions.</li> <li>Review wetland regulations to ensure consistency with the latest Ecology guidance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Article 19.63.700 of the SMP contains a revised version of the County's critical areas regulations. It states that these regulations are applicable only in shoreline jurisdiction, and shall control within shoreline jurisdiction over other County critical area regulations.</li> <li>Shoreline stream buffers are designated based on the waterbody and new environment designations (19.63.704.E.2.c).</li> <li>Wetland regulations are updated to specify the most current manuals and guidance (19.63.703).</li> </ul>

## 4.2 Shoreline Vegetation Conservation

<b><i>Analysis Report Recommendations</i></b>	<b><i>SMP Provisions</i></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Build on the existing protections provided in the County's critical areas regulations and current SMP, paying special attention to measures that will promote retention of shoreline vegetation, replacement of invasive vegetation with native vegetation, and development of a well-functioning shoreline which provides both physical and habitat processes.</li> <li>Ensure that vegetation provisions allow for appropriate modifications to accommodate preferred uses, particularly water-oriented uses and public access.</li> <li>Consider development of environment designation-specific and possibly waterbody-specific buffer and/or setback strategies that meet requirements for environmental protection and recognition of local conditions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The SMP states in its policies that development proposals must ensure shoreline vegetation, both upland and waterward of the OHWM, is conserved to maintain shoreline ecological functions and processes. Policies encourage management and control of noxious weeds and state that control of such species should be done in a manner that retains onsite native vegetation, provides for erosion control, and protects water quality.</li> <li>19.63.604 describes in detail limits on vegetation clearing and pruning, tree retention plan requirements, mitigation, and vegetation restoration requirements.</li> <li>Stream buffers are designated based on existing conditions in each environment designation; and  to accommodate preferred uses, water dependent developments have no fixed width shoreline buffer required. Mitigation sequencing must be applied to avoid and minimize adverse impacts during development siting.</li> </ul>

<b><i>Analysis Report Recommendations</i></b>	<b><i>SMP Provisions</i></b>
	Water-oriented public access and recreation facilities are allowed within buffers provided the applicant can demonstrate that the design applies mitigation sequencing and appropriate mitigation is provided to ensure no net loss of ecological functions (19.63.704.C.ii)

### 4.3 Water Quality, Stormwater and Non Point Pollution

<b><i>Analysis Report Recommendations</i></b>	<b><i>SMP Provisions</i></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider incorporating regulations to facilitate maximum implementation of TMDL plans and controlling introduction of 303(d)-listed pollutants for which TMDLs have not yet been prepared.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The SMP states that shoreline uses and developments shall maintain and improve the water quality and quantity of the County's shorelines, and preserve surface and groundwater and prevent impacts to water quality and surface water quantity that would result in a net loss of shoreline ecological functions (19.63.605.A).</li> </ul>

### 4.4 Shoreline Stabilization

<b><i>Analysis Report Recommendations</i></b>	<b><i>SMP Provisions</i></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fully implement the intent and principles of the WAC Guidelines. Reference appropriate exemptions from a Shoreline Substantial Development Permit related to "normal maintenance and repair" and "construction of the normal bulkhead common to single-family residences."</li> <li>Give preference to lower-impact, "soft" shoreline modifications.</li> <li>Provide incentives to encourage modification of existing armoring, where feasible, to improve habitat while still maintaining any necessary site use and protection.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New development must be located and designed to avoid the need for future shoreline stabilization (19.63.906.B.1)</li> <li>Soft shoreline stabilization methods are shown preference in the SMP policies (19.63.906.A.3) and regulations. 19.63.906.B.3 states all proposals for shoreline stabilization structures, both individually and cumulatively, must not result in a net loss of ecological functions and soft approaches shall be used unless demonstrated not to be sufficient.</li> <li>SMP shoreline stabilization regulations require replacement structures to be regulated as a new shoreline stabilization measure, except for the requirement to prepare a geotechnical analysis (19.63.906.B.6.b).</li> <li>19.63.906.B.6 also states that maintenance, repair and replacement of shoreline stabilization structures may meet the criteria for exemption from a SSD Permit, but such activity is not exempt from the policies and regulations of the SMP.</li> </ul>

## 4.5 Other Shoreline Modifications

<b>Analysis Report Recommendations</b>	<b>SMP Provisions</b>
<p>Piers and Docks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There do not appear to be any private residential pier or dock structures in unincorporated Whitman County. Consider addressing all standards for over- and in-water structures under a Boating Facilities section.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Section 19.63.803, Boating Facilities details specific construction and design standards for all boating facilities including piers and docks. To prevent damage to shallow-water habitat, piers and/or ramps shall generally extend at least 40 feet perpendicular from the OHWM and the bottom of both the pier or landward edge of the ramp shall be elevated at least 2 feet above the plane of OHWM. Grated decking is required.</li> <li>Piers and ramps shall be the minimum size necessary to achieve their intended purpose.</li> </ul>
<p>Fill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage restoration fills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fills are encouraged when associated with restoration projects (19.63.904.A.2) and fill regulations show preference to those for the purpose of restoration (19.63.904.B.4).</li> </ul>
<p>Breakwaters, Jetties, Groins and Weirs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider prohibiting new breakwaters, jetties, groins, or weirs except where they are essential to restoration or maintenance of existing water-dependent uses consistent with applicable state and federal regulations and potentially subject to a Shoreline Conditional Use Permit.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New, expanded or replacement breakwaters, jetties, groins and weirs are only allowed if it can be demonstrated that they will not result in a net loss of shoreline ecological functions and that they support water-dependent uses, public access, shoreline stabilization, or other specific public purpose.</li> <li>The Use and Modification Matrix (19.63.610) requires a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) or prohibits these structures unless related to restoration.</li> </ul>
<p>Dredging and Dredge Material Disposal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Except for purposes of shoreline restoration, flood hazard reduction, and maintenance of existing legal moorage and navigation, consider prohibiting dredging and dredge material disposal.</li> <li>Consider limiting upland dredge disposal to industrial areas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The SMP states that dredging may only be permitted for restoration or a few other specific activities including development of essential public facilities where no feasible alternatives exist, navigation, and maintenance of irrigation waterways for agriculture (19.63.903.B.4). The Use and Modification Matrix (18.08.470) requires a CUP for dredging activities other than those for restoration, navigation, water-dependent uses and public access.</li> <li>Dredging and dredge material disposal must be done in a manner that avoids or minimizes significant ecological impacts. Impacts that cannot be avoided must be mitigated in a manner that assures no net loss of shoreline ecological functions</li> </ul>

<b>Analysis Report Recommendations</b>	<b>SMP Provisions</b>
	(19.63.903.B.3).

## 4.6 Shoreline Use

<b>Analysis Report Recommendations</b>	<b>SMP Provisions</b>
<p>Aquaculture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that any salmon recovery-related aquaculture activities are facilitated in the aquatic and appropriate upland environments along the Snake River.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aquaculture policies encourage aquaculture that supports the recovery of endangered or threatened fish species and restricts it in areas where it would result in a net loss of ecological functions (19.63.802.A).</li> <li>Only non-commercial aquaculture is permitted (19.63.610, Use and Modification Matrix).</li> </ul>
<p>Boating Facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop regulations for over- and in-water components which provide applicants with as much predictability as possible, while still allowing for an appropriate amount of flexibility based on site-specific conditions and use-specific need.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Section 19.63.803, Boating Facilities details specific construction and design standards for all over- and in-water structures and uses that facilitate as their primary purpose the launching or mooring of vessels.</li> <li>To prevent damage to shallow-water habitat, piers and/or ramps shall generally extend at least 40 feet perpendicular from the OHWM and the bottom of both the pier and landward edge of the ramp shall be elevated at least 2 feet above the plane of OHWM. Grated decking is required.</li> </ul>
<p>Commercial Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is minimal commercial use in unincorporated Whitman County along the shorelines. The County should allow existing commercial uses to continue and identify criteria for where future commercial uses may be appropriate.</li> <li>Support the Port of Whitman County in retaining existing and attracting new water-oriented commercial uses in appropriate locations along the shoreline.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commercial development in shoreline areas shall be designed, located, and constructed to achieve no net loss of ecological functions (19.63.804.B.7).</li> <li>Proposed policies aim to maintain the Port of Whitman County's water-oriented commercial uses as well as attract new commercial development in appropriate locations along the shoreline (19.63.804.A.5).</li> </ul>

<b>Analysis Report Recommendations</b>	<b>SMP Provisions</b>
<p>Forest Practices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The forest practices use is not found in Whitman County; consider prohibiting it.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forest practices are prohibited in all environment designations except for Rural Conservancy (19.63.610). Policies require forest practice conversions and other Class IV-General forest practices where there is a likelihood of conversion to non-forest uses to assure no net loss of shoreline ecological functions and maintain the ecological quality of the watershed's hydrologic system (19.63.805.A).</li> </ul>
<p>Industry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognize current industrial uses and consider incentives to attract water-oriented uses in appropriate locations along the shoreline.</li> <li>Ensure that operation of existing and development of new industrial facilities are consistent with State SMP Guidelines and achieve no net loss of shoreline functions.</li> <li>Industrial uses along the Snake River are primarily located at the Port of Whitman County's on-water facilities. The County should support the Port's efforts to retain existing and attract new water-oriented industrial uses in appropriate locations along the Snake River shoreline.</li> <li>Recognize and allow existing and new industrial uses, such as grain silos, that serve the County's agriculture industry, provided they are developed and operated consistent with the SMP Guidelines and other County and State requirements.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policies recognize the importance of industrial uses and attracting water-oriented uses for location in appropriate areas along the shoreline (19.63.808.A.1)</li> <li>Policies also ensure that existing and new development of industrial facilities is consistent with all Master Program Guidelines and achieves no net loss of shoreline ecological function (19.63.808.A.6).</li> <li>Industrial facilities and port uses that are water-dependent or water-related are permitted where allowed by zoning and the SMP (19.63.808.B.2).</li> <li>19.63.808.B.3.a states that industrial and port development shall be located, designed, constructed, and operated in a manner that minimizes impacts to the shoreline, provides for no net loss of shoreline ecological function, and avoids unnecessary interference with shoreline use by adjacent property owners.</li> </ul>

<b>Analysis Report Recommendations</b>	<b>SMP Provisions</b>
<p>In-stream Structural Uses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Large-scale in-stream structures intended to produce energy and/or moderate flooding are found in Whitman County. There are also a number of irrigation diversion and discharge structures in many waterbodies. Regulations need to accommodate anticipated new diversion structures, and repair/maintenance and possible expansion of existing projects.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In-stream structure policies ensure the location, design, construction and maintenance of in-stream structures give due consideration to the full range of public interests, watershed functions and processes, and environmental concerns, with special emphasis on protecting and restoring priority habitats and species and encourage non-structural and non-regulatory approaches as an alternative to in-stream structures (19.63.806.A).</li> </ul>
<p>Mining</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A single mining operation is found in shoreline jurisdiction at the Port of Central Ferry. Develop regulations that will allow maintaining or expanding this use, or adding new mining uses, in industrial areas. Consider prohibiting all mining waterward of the OHWM.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mining waterward of the OHWM requires a CUP and is only allowed when certain conditions are met including that there will be no net loss of ecological function (19.63.610 and 19.63.807.B.4).</li> <li>All mining is prohibited in the Shoreline Parks designation (19.63.610).</li> <li>Policies ensure mining activities are sited, designed, conducted, and completed to result in no net loss of shoreline ecological functions and processes (19.63.807.A.2) and all mining proposals in shoreline jurisdiction must demonstrate that the mining is dependent on a shoreline location (19.63.807.B.1).</li> </ul>
<p>Recreational Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include provisions for existing and potential recreational uses, including boating, swimming, and fishing.</li> <li>Work with local, state and federal parks departments; Army Corps of Engineers; and Port officials to ensure consistency between shoreline policies and regulations and long-term parks management plans.</li> <li>Policies and regulations related to parks management should provide clear preferences for shoreline restoration consistent with public access needs and uses.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The location, design, and operation of recreational facilities must be consistent with the purpose of the environmental designation (19.63.809.A.4) and must be compatible with existing or proposed uses in the area and consistent with County development standards (19.63.809.B.2).</li> <li>Recreational development shall demonstrate achievement of no net loss of ecological functions (19.63.809.B1).</li> <li>Recreational uses and facilities located within shoreline jurisdiction shall include features that relate to access, enjoyment and use of the water and shorelines of the state. Access to recreational areas shall emphasize both consolidated park or open space areas and trail access (19.63.809.B4).</li> </ul>

<b>Analysis Report Recommendations</b>	<b>SMP Provisions</b>
<p>Residential Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residential uses are not common in the unincorporated County. Where allowed, residential development should proceed in a manner consistent with the control of pollution and prevention of damage to the shoreline environment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residential development shall meet all applicable critical area, vegetation, and water quality standards and be located, designed and constructed in a manner that assures that no net loss of ecological functions (19.63.810.B.2.a,c).</li> <li>New residential lots created through land division shall comply with all applicable subdivision and zoning regulations and be consistent with applicable SMP environment designations and standards. Plats and subdivisions must be designed, configured and developed in a manner that assures that no net loss of ecological functions results from the plat or subdivision at full build-out of lots (19.63.810.B.1.a,b).</li> <li>Residential development shall be sufficiently set back from steep slopes and shorelines vulnerable to erosion so that structural improvements, such as shoreline stabilization structures, are not required to protect such structures and uses (19.63.810.B.2.b).</li> </ul>
<p>Transportation and Parking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allow for maintenance and improvements to existing roads, railroads and parking areas, and for necessary new roads and parking areas where other locations outside of shoreline jurisdiction are not feasible.</li> <li>Promote additional trail connections consistent with local and regional plans.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where other options are available and feasible, new roads, road expansions or railroads shall not be built within shoreline jurisdiction (19.63.811.B.1)</li> <li>Repair and maintenance of existing structures is permitted (19.63.813).</li> <li>When railroads, roads or road expansions are unavoidable, proposed transportation facilities shall be planned, located, and designed to minimize possible adverse effects and maintain no net loss of shoreline ecological functions and be set back from the OHWM to the maximum feasible (19.63.811.B.1).</li> </ul>
<p>Utilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allow for new, expanded, and maintained utilities with criteria for location and vegetation restoration as appropriate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Utility production and processing facilities, such as power plants and sewage treatment plants, or parts of those facilities that are nonwater-oriented shall not be allowed in shoreline areas unless it can be demonstrated that no other feasible option is available (19.63.812.B.3).</li> <li>Utility projects within shoreline jurisdiction shall be designed to achieve no-net-loss of shoreline ecological function, preserve the natural landscape, and minimize conflicts with present and planned land and shoreline uses while meeting the needs of future populations in areas planned to accommodate growth (18.63.812.B.2).</li> </ul>

## 4.7 Shoreline Habitat and Natural Systems Enhancement Projects

<b><i>Analysis Report Recommendations</i></b>	<b><i>SMP provisions</i></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider incentives to encourage restoration projects, especially in lower-functioning areas.</li> <li>Emphasize that certain fills, such as streambed gravels or material to anchor logs, can be an important component of some restoration projects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restoration is permitted in all environment designations and is generally incentivized through an easier permit pathway (SDP or exemption, versus CUP).</li> <li>Restoration related fills are addressed in 19.63.904, Fill. Fills are encouraged when associated with restoration projects (19.63.904.A.2) and restoration fills are not subject to the same requirements as other fill (19.63.904.B.4)</li> </ul>

## 5 RESTORATION OPPORTUNITIES

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The County's Shoreline Restoration Plan, prepared as part of the regional SMP update, will serve as a framework for the County and its restoration partners to identify and implement opportunities to improve impaired ecological functions in the County's shorelines. Several restoration opportunities were identified to address ecological impairments identified in the Shoreline Analysis Report. Restoration recommendations focus on addressing impacts to existing riparian conditions by implementing livestock fencing and other actions that remove activities from the riparian corridor and restore riparian buffer zones, implementing best management practices and TMDL actions to improve water quality conditions, and restoring instream habitat complexity. The Shoreline Restoration Plan identified several funding sources and partners with whom the County may partner to achieve its shoreline restoration goals.

## 6 CUMMULATIVE IMPACTS

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The Cumulative Impacts Analysis determined that the proposed SMP is expected to maintain existing shoreline functions within Whitman County while accommodating the reasonably foreseeable future shoreline development.

The following are some of the key features identified in the Cumulative Impacts Analysis that protect and enhance shoreline ecological functions to ensure that the no net loss standard is met.

- Shoreline environment designations are based on existing shoreline conditions. Allowed uses focus higher-intensity development in areas with a higher level of existing alterations, while limiting future uses in areas where ecological functions and processes are more intact.
- SMP standards require applicants to avoid, minimize, and then compensate for unavoidable impacts to shoreline functions. Where SMP standards do not provide specific, objective measures that clarify avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures, a mitigation sequencing analysis is required.
- Shoreline critical areas regulations are consistent with recommended state guidance to maintain ecological functions.

- Specific policies and regulations governing shoreline uses and modifications ensure that potential impacts are regulated to avoid a net loss of ecological function, while also meeting the requirements of the Shoreline Management Act pertaining to public access, prioritization of shoreline uses, and private property rights.
- The SMP includes an emphasis on achieving no net loss of shoreline ecological functions throughout shoreline jurisdiction.

## 7 CONCLUSIONS REGARDING NO NET LOSS

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The SMP update process has provided the opportunity to identify existing environmental conditions, anticipate future impacts to shoreline functions, and promote restoration opportunities within Whitman County's shoreline jurisdiction. The SMP update was based on the evaluation of existing conditions identified through the Shoreline Analysis Report. The proposed SMP provides a high level of protection to shoreline ecological functions. Major elements of the SMP that ensure no net loss of ecological functions fall into four general categories:

1) environment designations (SMP Subsection 19.63.503), 2) general policies and regulations (SMP Section 19.63.600), 3) critical areas regulations (SMP Section 19.63.700), and 4) shoreline use and modification specific provisions (SMP Sections 19.63.800 and 19.63.900). In addition to the mandatory components of the SMP, the Shoreline Restoration Plan identifies voluntary restoration opportunities that will help the County identify and prioritize opportunities to restore shoreline ecological functions.

The Shoreline Analysis Report provided the information necessary to assign environment designations to the County's shoreline. Shoreline uses and modifications were then individually determined to be either permitted (as substantial developments or conditional uses) or prohibited in each of those environment designations.

Regulations emphasize avoidance and minimization of ecological impacts primarily via protection of vegetation. These factors are balanced with uses and modifications that are essential to maintaining the existing water-dependent use and necessary modifications. Recommendations from the Shoreline Analysis Report were weighed and generally followed in the development of the SMP. Deviations from the Shoreline Analysis Report recommendations were made to ensure that 1) regulations did not interfere with the potential for shoreline

restoration or enhancement, or prevent future public access/recreation improvements; and 2) existing uses were allowed to continue to operate. All of the shoreline modification regulations emphasize minimization of size of structures and use of appropriate materials, and use of designs that do not degrade and may even enhance shoreline functions. The proposed SMP emphasizes protection and enhancement of shoreline resources such that no net loss of ecological functions will be achieved over time.

Several potential voluntary restoration projects, programs, and partners were identified in the Shoreline Restoration Plan. Specific opportunities and/or implementation strategies for restoration both within and outside of shoreline jurisdiction were proposed.

Given the above provisions, implementation of the proposed SMP is anticipated to achieve **no net loss of ecological functions in Whitman County's shorelines**.

## 8 REFERENCES

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The Watershed Company. June 2015. Shoreline Restoration Plan for Shorelines in Whitman County, the Cities of Colfax, Palouse, Pullman and Tekoa and the Towns of Albion, Malden and Rosalia. Prepared for Whitman County.

The Watershed Company and BERK. October 2015. Cumulative Impacts Analysis for Whitman County's Shoreline Master Program. Prepared for Whitman County.

The Watershed Company and BERK. 2014. Final Shoreline Analysis Report for Shorelines in Whitman County; the Cities of Colfax, Palouse, Pullman and Tekoa; and the Towns of Albion, Malden and Rosalia.

Whitman County. October 2015. Whitman County Shoreline Master Program Draft, Revised per SEPA and Ecology Feedback Received October 1, 2015.